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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/564,827

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Thomas Huber

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EXAMINER

DINH, TIEN QUANG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3644

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/16/2010

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patents@bakerlaw.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/564,827	Applicant(s) HUBER ET AL.	
	Examiner Tien Dinh	Art Unit 3644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 January 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21, 26-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 26, 28, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bergholz 4479621.

Bergholz discloses an aircraft having a cylindrical fuselage, prefabricated cargo floor module having at least one floor element 13, a functional unit 34, and floor beam supporting the floor element (see figure 4) that adapted for connection to a skin of said aircraft with parts shown in figure 4. The prefabricated cargo floor module can rest on the cylindrical fuselage without the floor module being connected to the fuselage. This occurs when the floor module can be angled with one end resting on the very bottom of the fuselage while the other end touches the side portion of the inner fuselage. Please note that the desired finished position is when the floor module is mounted and connected to the fuselage with parts 20, 21. However, when the floor module is inside the fuselage, it doesn't have to be connected to the fuselage with parts 20, 21. This meets what has been claimed. Plus, the last paragraph of claim 26 is alternatively interpreted. The floor module can rests within the fuselage without the floor module being connected to the fuselage with parts 20 since the parts 15 support the floor module prior to the parts 20 are used to connect the floor module to the side of the fuselage.

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Re claims 28 and 29, Berghholz discloses essentially all of the claimed parts (as noted above). As for the last paragraph of claim 28, the fuselage receives and supports the cargo floor module at an ultimate position with parts 15 prior to the floor module being connected to the fuselage with parts 20.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 13, 14-15, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baldwin 3612316 in view of Micale 5806797 and/or Powell 20040237439.

Baldwin discloses a floor (at the bottom portion of the aircraft) for a cargo compartment of an aircraft having at least one floor elements 18, 14 and functional units 28, 40, 34, 108, which are connected to floor element to carry such units (see figure 2), and floor beam 12 supporting the floor element and adapted to the skin of the aircraft. The floor elements 18, 14 are connected to the floor beam. Baldwin is silent on the prefabricated floor modules. However, Micale discloses that to prefabricate an aircraft structure is well known. The prefabricated structures are then used to build the fuselage. See figure 16. In addition, Powell discloses that to prefabricate a structure is well known.

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It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have made prefabricated floor modules in Baldwin's system as taught by Micale and/or Powell so that the floor system for an aircraft can be assembled and disassembled quickly.

Re claim 3, Baldwin discloses at least one of an electrical control device and mechanical control device for controlling the functional unit is connected to the functional unit. See figure 6. See column 3, lines 21-41.

Re claim 13, people can walk on the floor panels shown in figure 1 of Baldwin.

Re claims 14 and 15, the insulation devices are not numbered but are clearly shown in figure 1 of Baldwin. These devices connect the fuselage to the floor modules. There are the two vertical insulation elements connected between the fuselage and the floor modules.

Re claim 20, the examiner takes official notice that lining element and a mounting device for the lining elements are well known and that one skilled in the art would have used such elements and devices so as to protect the interior of Baldwin.

Re claim 21, the floor modules can be fastened to the skin and removed again in an arbitrary sequence as taught by the prior arts above.

Re amended claim 1, applicant has argued that Baldwin's cargo floor 12 is not configured and adapted for connection to the skin of the aircraft. The examiner disagrees. It is clear that the floor is attached to the fuselage. The fuselage has a skin that is at the outer part of the aircraft. Since the floor is attached to the fuselage, it also is configured and adapted for connection to the skin of the aircraft.

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Claims 4-7, 12, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baldwin as modified by Micale and/or Powell as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Owen 6061982.

Baldwin as modified by Micale and/or Powell discloses all claimed parts except for the floor modules having channels to hold electrical leads/wires or water conduits to link other similar conducting devices or water conduits in an adjacent floor module to form an overall conducting system when the floor modules are attached to each other. However, Owen teaches that floor modules having power cables or electrical leads/wires 20, 26 and water conduits or drainage devices 14, 15 that run across multiple floor modules and forming an overall conducting system are well known. See figure 1.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used floor modules and made the modules of Baldwin have the capability to carry electrical leads/wires or water conduits to link other similar conducting devices or water conduits in an adjacent floor module as taught by Owen to have a floor module system that run the whole fuselage so that the aircraft can carry more payloads and to quickly assemble and disassemble the floor modules from the fuselage.

Re claim 4, the examiner takes official notice that transmission sockets are well known in this day and age. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have use power transmission sockets in Baldwin's system so that the transmission of power can run across the floor modules for easier assembly and disassembly.

Re claims 6 and 7, the branches are shown in figure 1 of Owen. See parts 20, 26. Re claim 7, see parts 70 and 72, which are the mechanical connections. See figure 6 of Owen. It

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would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used braches and mechanical connections in Baldwin's system as taught by Owen to allow floor modules to be connected mechanically and electrically.

Re claim 18, Owen discloses floor modules having a connecting device (which is the outer covering of the wires 20 shown in figure 1) for electronic components. The fixation device can be parts 18 or 42, 50.

Re claim 19, Baldwin is silent on the water tanks and the connecting devices. Please note that Owen teaches water tanks 86 and a connecting device 14, 15 are well known. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to have used water tanks and/or connecting devices 14 in Baldwin's system as taught by Owen to move liquid through the floor modules.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baldwin as modified by Micale and/or Powell as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Telair International DE19712278.

Baldwin as modified by Micale and/or Powell discloses all claimed parts except for the inspection openings with floor element section and the fast action closure device. However, Telair discloses that inspection openings with floor element sections 42 and fast action closure devices (not numbered but is next to number 59 in figure 1) are well known. The bilge space is disclosed by Baldwin.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used inspection openings with fast action closure devices in Baldwin's system as taught by Telair to allow easy access through the floor modules for safety inspections.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baldwin as modified by Micale and/or Powell as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Tovani 5827022.

Baldwin as modified by Micale and/or Powell discloses all claimed parts except for the sealing device or leakproof connecting elements. However, Tovani discloses that sealing devices are well known. See figure 1 and where number 22 is pointed to.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used sealing devices Baldwin's system as taught by Tovani to have a tighter seal over and below the floor elements and between floor elements.

Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baldwin as modified by Micale and/or Powell as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Nordstrom 7410128.

Baldwin as modified by Micale and/or Powell discloses all claimed parts except for the bulkheads and fixation devices. However, Nordstrom discloses that Bulkheads 48 with fixation devices are well known. See figure 2.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used bulkheads and fixation devices in Baldwin's system as taught by Nordstrom as separation barriers for better organization. Please note that the bulkhead has ballistic resistant materials since it can resist ballistic parts.

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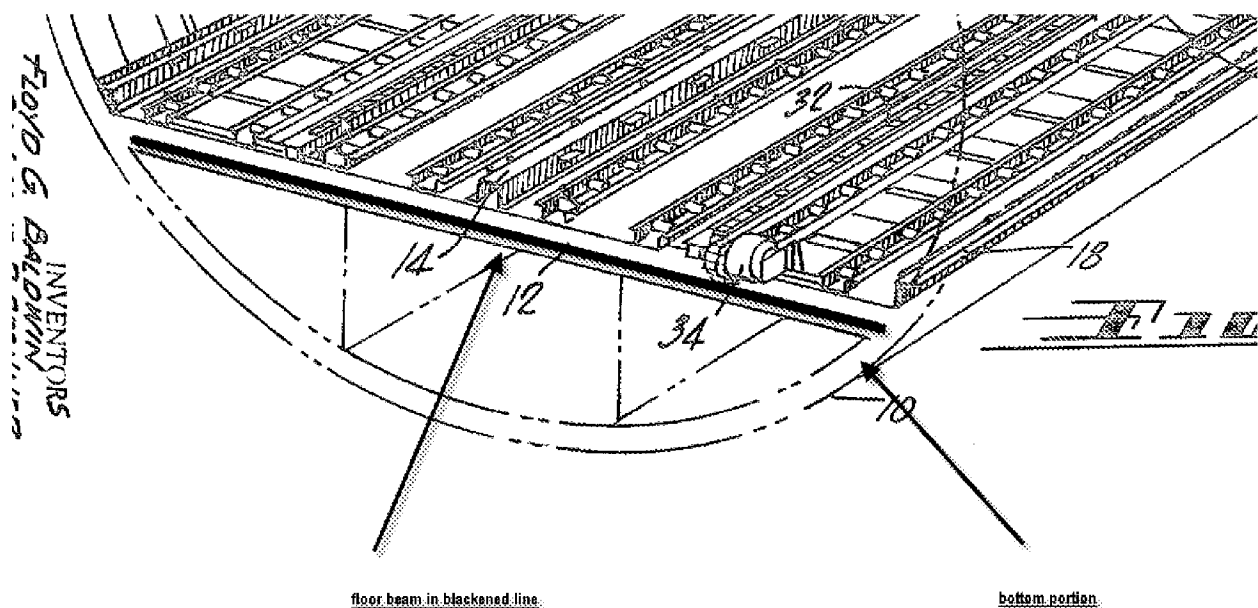
Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergholz 4479621 in view of Owen 6061982.

Bergholz discloses all claimed parts except for the floor module having a water tank. However, Owen teaches that floor modules water conduits or drainage devices 14, 15 (which are water tanks) that run across multiple floor modules and forming an overall conducting system are well known. See figure 1.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used water tanks in Bergholz as taught by Owen to accommodate the passengers' need.

Response to Arguments

The applicant has argued that Baldwin does not teach or suggest that a floor beam is adapted for connection to a bottom portion of the fuselage. The examiner disagrees.



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As seen the figure above, the floor beam is adapted to be connected to the bottom portion of the fuselage.

The examiner would like to point out that applicant has not claimed that the floor module being directly connected to the skin.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See Huber and Locher et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tien Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-6899. The examiner can normally be reached on 12-8.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Mansen can be reached on 571-272-6608. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tien Dinh/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3644